

A Stellar Employee for Medtronic Emergency Response Systems: Herb Bartlett

Herb Bartlett has worked at Medtronic Emergency Response Systems (ERS) for 23 years. He started out in manufacturing as an assembler, and for the last 11 years has held the position of internal mail delivery person. Last summer Herb's sisters took him to Washington, D.C. and New York City to celebrate his 50th birthday. While in D.C., Herb had the chance to meet with representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Labor and the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID).



During his meeting with Sally Atwater, executive director for the PCPID, Herb was asked to apply for a committee appointment. Herb was accepted and will attend the first meeting of the Committee this fall, on September 14 and 15 in Washington, D.C.

Herb has been a long-time advocate for people with disabilities. He has spoken at national conferences and local organizations on what work means to him, saying that his job has enabled him to have his own apartment, travel, go shopping and decorate his home. He is proud of his career and believes that people with intellectual disabilities have the *right* to work. Herb will carry his commitment to the rights of people with intellectual disabilities to Washington as he participates as a member of this very important Committee.

Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, the PCPID acts in an advisory capacity to the President and the Secretary of The Department of Health and Human Services on issues about programs and services for people with intellectual disabilities. Since 1966 the Committee has advocated on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities, and has "advanced the concept of community participation" for many individuals.

Herb develops strong relationships with people at all levels of the organization, including the executive team. When there is a change at the helm, Herb is one of the first team members to welcome him or her to the

company. These relationships have helped build awareness about people with developmental disabilities in the workplace, and how they can contribute to a company's overall success.



Aside from his job, Herb leads a busy and full life that includes travel, time with his family and a variety of creative pursuits. Herb has participated in a community theater for people with disabilities, including performances in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Grease*, *West Side Story* and *South Pacific*. One of his artistic accomplishments, a mosaic of the Washington state capitol, was displayed in the capitol building in Olympia, Washington. Herb also loves music, and has a karaoke machine. He enjoys talking with his

team members about his favorite celebrities in the music and movie industry.

Herb is a stellar employee—he has a strong work ethic and is very committed to good attendance and being loyal, responsible and dependable in his job. He enjoys having conversations with co-workers on world happenings, his family, music, karaoke, sports, the weather and his community activities, and brings cheer to team members on his daily rounds.

Herb's travels have taken him to destinations such as Japan, Branson (Missouri), Hawaii, Nashville, and Disneyland, to name a few. He has also been on the *Today* show, and has a photo of himself with Katie Couric. Family is very important to Herb and he enjoys spending time with them. His family is certainly a key factor in his successes in his life.

Herb's job at Medtronic ERS has afforded him many opportunities and provided him with a life that his family and many others never imagined. In return, team members at Medtronic ERS value Herb as a fellow team member and friend.

Submitted by Anne Devine